

Rehabilitation Services Commission

Role and Overview

The [Rehabilitation Services Commission](#) (RSC) works in partnership with people with disabilities to achieve employment and independence. Directed by a seven-member commission, RSC is comprised of three bureaus, two of which provide direct vocational rehabilitation services. Created by the Ohio General Assembly, the seven-member commission is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. No more than four commission members may be of the same political party. Three must be representatives from the rehabilitation profession, including at least one member must be involved with the blind. At least four commissioners must be individuals with disabilities, including at least two but no more than three who have received vocational rehabilitation services from the state vocational rehabilitation agency or the Veterans' Administration. Commission members serve staggered seven-year terms.

RSC has provided quality services to people with disabilities and employers since 1970; however, Ohio's commitment to vocational rehabilitation started in 1920. The commission has over 1,400 employees with an annual operating budget of over \$270 million. Today, the agency is a nationally-recognized leader in helping people with severe disabilities achieve their employment goals. As a result, these Ohioans enjoy independent and self-sufficient lives, contribute to their communities, and enrich the state's workforce.

Executive Priorities for the Rehabilitation Services Commission

- Promote the employment of Ohioans with disabilities.
- Assist Ohioans with disabilities achieve competitive employment.
- Encourage independence and economic self-sufficiency for Ohioans with disabilities.

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations

(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE	%	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	CHANGE FY 04-05	FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	24,542	23,763	23,623	24,297	2.9	24,297	.0	24,297	.0
General Services Fund Group	16,947	18,050	18,965	20,189	6.5	20,189	.0	20,189	.0
Fed Special Revenue Fund Group	183,176	194,100	202,224	220,228	8.9	218,936	(.6)	218,122	(.4)
State Special Revenue Fund Group	6,826	6,003	5,011	5,569	11.1	5,555	(.2)	5,605	.9
TOTAL	231,491	241,916	249,823	270,283	8.2	268,977	(.5)	268,213	(.3)

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(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	FY 2002	ACTUAL FY 2003	FY 2004	ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
						FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
Personal Services	78,001	83,574	83,478	87,470	4.8	92,747	6.0	95,612	3.1
Purchased Services	1,571	1,680	2,579	2,902	12.5	9,562	229.5	9,879	3.3
Maintenance	32,784	32,121	30,167	31,557	4.6	33,896	7.4	34,453	1.6
Equipment	2,206	2,973	2,907	4,118	41.7	4,300	4.4	4,304	.1
Subsidy	116,580	120,276	130,646	143,743	10.0	128,034	(10.9)	123,529	(3.5)
Goods For Resale	76	62	47	15	(67.4)	100	551.8	100	.0
Transfer & Other	272	1,231	0	477	.0	337	(29.4)	337	.0
TOTAL	231,491	241,916	249,823	270,283	8.2	268,977	(.5)	268,213	(.3)

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Vocational Rehabilitation

The primary goal of this program series is to help people with severe disabilities obtain and maintain competitive employment.

Program 01.01: Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a multi-service program designed for people with disabilities who have barriers to becoming employed. VR services assist people in obtaining and maintaining employment. RSC is the only state agency designated by the Federal Rehabilitation Act to administer and supervise VR services in the state.

The federal government matches every state dollar with almost four federal dollars. RSC also receives additional funds for VR services through a cash transfer agreement with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

During fiscal year 2004, RSC rehabilitated 8,088 Ohioans with disabilities and provided services to 54,171 people. Of those individuals rehabilitated, 6,779 individuals are competitively employed and earn an average of \$18,761 annually.

What the Budget Buys:

- Supports rehabilitation services to over 54,000 people;
- Funds services to aid 14,000 people over the biennium to become competitively employed at an average annual income of \$18,000; and
- Maintains 45 offices throughout the state.

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FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	415-100	Personal Services	8,851,468	8,851,468
GRF	GRF	415-403	Mental Health Services	717,221	717,221
GRF	GRF	415-404	MRDD Services	1,260,816	1,260,816
GRF	GRF	415-405	Vocational Rehabilitation/Human Services	536,912	536,912
GRF	GRF	415-406	Assistive Technology	47,531	47,531
GRF	GRF	415-506	Services for People with Disabilities	12,185,215	12,185,215
GRF	GRF	415-509	Services for the Elderly	359,377	359,377
FED	3L1	415-608	Social Security: Special Programs/Assistance	2,246,991	131,716
FED	3L1	415-610	Social Security Vocational Rehabilitation	1,336,324	1,338,324
FED	3L4	415-615	Federal-Supported Employment	1,338,191	1,338,191
FED	3L4	415-617	Independent Living/Voc Rehab Programs	1,408,885	1,508,885
FED	379	415-616	Federal-Vocational Rehabilitation	119,589,737	116,023,049
SSR	4L1	415-619	Services for Rehabilitation	4,488,537	4,486,000
SSR	468	415-618	Third Party Funding	1,055,407	1,105,407
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				155,422,612	149,890,112

Program 01.02: Business Enterprises

Created by the Federal Randolph Sheppard Act, this program provides job opportunities for persons who are blind or severely visually impaired. These individuals are provided with management training and the equipment necessary to run vending and food service facilities on federal, state, and county properties. The program is responsible for developing new food service operations, monitoring existing operations, and providing training to new and existing licensed food service operators.

This program, one of many nationwide, is the single largest employment program for the legally blind in Ohio. The Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired facilitates self-employment food service and vending opportunities for legally blind entrepreneurs. The 120 blind licensees of the program manage 127 facilities statewide. These facilities include: full service cafeterias; vending operations, including those located in Ohio Department of Transportation highway rest areas; snack bars; and convenience stores. Many of the major cafeteria operations also offer catering services. In fiscal year 2004 the program realized approximately \$21 million in gross sales and employed more than 400 Ohioans.

What the Budget Buys:

- Funds assistance to 120 blind licensees managing 127 facilities, and
- Creates jobs for 400 Ohioans.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GSF	467	415-609	Business Enterprise Operating Expenses	1,632,082	1,632,082
FED	379	415-616	Federal-Vocational Rehabilitation	3,650,743	3,650,743
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				5,282,825	5,282,825

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Program 01.03: Brain Injury

This program promotes a statewide system of services to return persons with brain injuries to a productive role in society. The program also works toward reducing the incidence of brain injury and the severity of impairments due to such injuries by providing community support services, funding, prevention, research, incidence reporting systems, case management options, and training for health care professionals.

This program also provides staff support to a statewide Brain Injury Advisory Committee. RSC serves in an administrative role, making funding awards to the Brain Injury Association of Ohio. The advisory committee monitors funding and retains project oversight for core services, including Ohio's Community Support Network, a statewide resource facilitation system operated by the Brain Injury Association of Ohio. There are six coordinators serving multi-county areas throughout the state. These coordinators address the needs of both individuals with brain injuries and their families.

The program operates a statewide toll-free Helpline, that provides resource identification and outreach services to over 2,300 callers annually. The association offers education, training, and advocacy through its Helpline, Community Support Network, support groups, and collaborative ventures with other service providers.

What the Budget Buys:

- Maintains six Community Support Networks; and
- Maintains a statewide toll-free Helpline, which provides resource identification, outreach services, education, and training services to 2,300 callers annually.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	415-431	Office for People with Head Injuries	226,012	226,012
FED	3L4	415-617	Independent Living/Voc Rehab Programs	100,000	100,000
FED	379	415-616	Federal-Vocational Rehabilitation	324,678	324,678
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				650,690	650,690

Program 01.04: Personal Care Assistance

This program provides financial resources to help eligible consumers with severe disabilities pay for the cost of a personal assistant to allow them to work and live independently. The program prioritizes allocation of these financial resources to consumers so that they may work or participate in activities leading to employment.

Although personal assistance services can be provided through Medicaid programs, most individuals who are competitively employed do not qualify for assistance through these programs due to income ceilings. This is the only program in Ohio that focuses resources to meet the needs of working people in need of personal care assistance. The services made available to consumers include: bathing, dressing, personal grooming, performing bowel and bladder care, toileting, preparing meals and eating, repositioning and turning, driving services, record-keeping, house cleaning, and laundry.

What the Budget Buys:

- Allows 300 consumers with severe disabilities to meet the cost of their personal assistance needs to enable them to obtain and maintain employment and/or live independently.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
FED	3L1	415-601	Social Security Personal Care Assistance	3,743,740	3,743,740
FED	3L1	415-607	Social Security Administrative Costs	175,860	175,860
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				3,919,600	3,919,600

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Program 01.05: Community Centers for the Deaf

This program provides support services such as legal protection, health and mental health care, telecommunications, public transportation, government services, and other public and private social services to enable deaf or hard of hearing individuals to be independent, self-supporting taxpayers. Sign language interpreting services, sign language instruction, and information concerning the American with Disabilities Act are also provided to consumers.

What the Budget Buys:

- Funds ten Community Centers for the Deaf and eight satellite offices; and
- Provides assistance to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing so that they can access programs such as legal protection, health/mental health care, telecommunications, public transportation, government services, and other public and social services.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	415-508	Services for the Deaf	50,000	50,000
FED	3L1	415-605	Social Security Centers for the Deaf	1,100,488	1,100,488
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				1,150,488	1,150,488

PROGRAM SERIES 02: Disability Determination

The Bureau of Disability Determination, under an agreement with the Social Security Administration (SSA), processes Social Security disability determinations for all Ohioans who have applied at their local Social Security office for benefits under Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a needs-based income supplement program and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

Program 02.01: Disability Determination

This 100% federally funded program provides financial assistance to Ohioans who are totally disabled and meet the SSA requirements for disability. Both adults and children receive benefits until they are able to return to work, or in the case of children, until they can return to age-appropriate activities. Benefits can be continued during vocational rehabilitation and during a trial work period.

What the Budget Buys:

- Funds staff to determine eligibility for over 480,000 Ohioans who receive monthly disability benefits totaling over \$279 million per year; and
- Maintains processing of over 190,000 claims per year.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
FED	317	415-620	Disability Determination	82,870,347	87,999,369
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				82,870,347	87,999,369

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PROGRAM SERIES 03: Independent Living

This program series promotes consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities and their integration into mainstream American society.

Program 03.01: Independent Living

This program provides funding to Centers for Independent Living as well as branch offices. These centers focus on the following four core services: independent living skills training, peer support, advocacy, and information and referral. The centers are community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential, private, nonprofit agencies operated by people with disabilities. These centers provide Ohioans with disabilities with the necessary skills to live independently and contribute to society. Without these skills many individuals would find themselves without community support and would be forced into an institution.

What the Budget Buys:

- Funds support 12 Centers for Independent Living and two branch offices; and
- Funds support the Independent Living Council efforts to coordinate and increase the impact of independent living services throughout the state.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	415-402	Independent Living Council	12,280	12,280
GRF	GRF	415-520	Independent Living Services	50,000	50,000
FED	3L1	415-614	Social Security Independent Living	154,942	0
FED	3L4	415-612	Fed-Independent Living Centers or Services	894,662	686,520
SSR	4L1	415-619	Services for Rehabilitation	11,463	14,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				1,123,347	762,800

PROGRAM SERIES 04: Program Management/Indirect Cost

This program series provides all necessary administrative and support services to RSC's direct service programs. The cost of centralized services funded through this program series is proportional to the activities and production levels of the teams and bureaus that provide direct consumer services.

Program 04.01: Program Management/Indirect Cost

- Centralized administrative services and functions funded through this program budget include: statewide cost allocation group, legislative process unit, executive director's office, office of affirmative action, staff attorney, human resources team, administrative support team, finance unit, property management,
- information technology and telecommunication systems team, budget unit, program policy unit, projects team manager, consumer and legislative affairs team, and public affairs unit.

What the Budget Buys:

- Funds personnel needed to support the commission's activities.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GSF	4W5	415-606	Administrative Expenses	18,557,040	18,557,040
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				18,557,040	18,557,040

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Rehabilitation Services Commission

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2002 ACTUAL	FY 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ESTIMATE	FY 2006 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2007 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	415-100	Personal Services	8,506,587	8,711,594	8,677,911	8,851,468	8,851,468	.0	8,851,468	.0
GRF	415-401	Personal Care Assistance	288,684	0	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
GRF	415-402	Independent Living Council	398,582	12,665	12,040	12,280	12,280	.0	12,280	.0
GRF	415-403	Mental Health Services	754,473	754,473	702,976	717,221	717,221	.0	717,221	.0
GRF	415-404	MR/DD Services	1,326,302	1,326,284	1,247,949	1,260,816	1,260,816	.0	1,260,816	.0
GRF	415-405	Vocational Rehab/Human Services	564,799	564,799	530,219	536,912	536,912	.0	536,912	.0
GRF	415-406	Assistive Technology	50,000	50,000	47,531	47,531	47,531	.0	47,531	.0
GRF	415-431	Off for People w/Head Injury	249,168	147,746	144,057	226,012	226,012	.0	226,012	.0
GRF	415-506	Svcs for People w/Disabilities	11,931,616	11,741,452	11,820,139	12,185,215	12,185,215	.0	12,185,215	.0
GRF	415-508	Services for the Deaf	45,040	0	49,997	50,000	50,000	.0	50,000	.0
GRF	415-509	Services for the Elderly	378,043	378,044	340,358	359,377	359,377	.0	359,377	.0
GRF	415-520	Independent Living Services	48,208	75,596	50,000	50,000	50,000	.0	50,000	.0
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			24,541,502	23,762,653	23,623,177	24,296,832	24,296,832	.0	24,296,832	.0
4W5	415-606	Administrative Expenses	15,613,566	16,803,538	17,606,320	18,557,040	18,557,040	.0	18,557,040	.0
467	415-609	Business Enterprise Operating Exp.	1,234,622	1,246,766	1,358,694	1,632,082	1,632,082	.0	1,632,082	.0
5L9	415-621	TANF/PCA Maintenance of Effort	31,807	0	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
5L9	415-622	TANF/PRCDR	66,670	0	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			16,946,665	18,050,304	18,965,014	20,189,122	20,189,122	.0	20,189,122	.0
3L1	415-601	Soc Sec Personal Care Assistance	3,315,302	3,651,639	3,670,757	3,988,032	3,743,740	(6.1)	3,743,740	.0
3L1	415-605	Soc Sec Centers for the Deaf	1,042,819	1,227,480	1,144,552	1,100,488	1,100,488	.0	1,100,488	.0
3L1	415-607	Social Security Admin Cost	154,897	169,860	163,101	175,860	175,860	.0	175,860	.0
3L1	415-608	Soc Sec:Special Programs/Assistance	16,472,116	7,224,382	5,733,920	6,941,158	2,246,991	(67.6)	131,716	(94.1)
3L1	415-610	Soc Sec Vocational Rehab	1,428,089	1,226,410	1,461,445	1,338,324	1,336,324	(.1)	1,338,324	.2
3L1	415-614	Social Sec. Independent Living	15,992	385,917	385,917	385,917	154,942	(59.9)	0	(100.0)
3L4	415-611	Fed-Independent Living Council	51,099	0	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
3L4	415-612	Fed-Indep Living Centers or Svc	728,963	781,742	670,954	663,687	894,662	34.8	686,520	(23.3)
3L4	415-615	Federal-Supported Employment	1,479,021	1,444,941	1,300,219	1,714,546	1,338,191	(22.0)	1,338,191	.0
3L4	415-617	Independent Living/Voc Rehab Progrms	1,107,322	1,567,551	1,744,940	1,582,484	1,508,885	(4.7)	1,608,885	6.6
317	415-620	Disability Determination	66,260,223	68,235,208	69,545,086	76,816,863	82,870,347	7.9	87,999,369	6.2
379	415-616	Federal-Vocational Rehabilitation	91,120,202	108,184,877	116,403,016	125,520,458	123,565,158	(1.6)	119,998,470	(2.9)
TOTAL Fed Special Revenue Fund Group			183,176,045	194,100,007	202,223,907	220,227,817	218,935,588	(.6)	218,121,563	(.4)
4L1	415-619	Services for Rehabilitation	5,660,070	5,200,885	3,397,806	3,176,070	4,500,000	41.7	4,500,000	.0
468	415-618	Third Party Funding	1,166,227	802,376	1,613,580	2,392,991	1,055,407	(55.9)	1,105,407	4.7
TOTAL State Special Revenue Fund Group			6,826,297	6,003,261	5,011,386	5,569,061	5,555,407	(.2)	5,605,407	.9
TOTAL Rehabilitation Services Comm			231,490,509	241,916,225	249,823,484	270,282,832	268,976,949	(.5)	268,212,924	(.3)

Executive Budget For Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007